VI. MOTIONS WHICH REQUIRE A TWO-THIRDS VOTE

Amend or Rescind constitution, bylaws, or rules of order, previous notice also being required (2, 35, 57)

Amend or Rescind Something Previously Adopted (other than constitution, bylaws, or rules of order), if notice has not been given (35)

Close nominations (31)

Close the polls (30)

Depose from office where trial is not required (see pp. 642–43), and notice has not been given

Discharge an order of the day before it is pending (41)

Discharge a Committee, if notice, or a partial report, has not been given (36)

Extend time for consideration of pending question (18), or time until scheduled adjournment or recess (20, 21)

Expel from membership, notice and a trial being also required unless the offense is committed in a meeting of the assembly (61)

Limit or Extend Limits of Debate (15)

Make a special order (14, 41)

Previous Question (16)

Reconsider in committee, when someone who voted with the prevailing side is absent and has not been notified that the reconsideration will be moved (pp. 318–19)

Refuse to proceed to the orders of the day (18)

Suspend the Rules (25)

Take up a question out of its proper order, or take up an order of the day before the time for which it has been set (14, 25, 41)

VII. MOTIONS WHOSE RECONSIDERATION IS PROHIBITED OR LIMITED

- Cannot be reconsidered at all:

    Adjourn (21)

    Close nominations (31)

    Close the polls (30)

    Consider by Paragraph or Seriatim (28)

    Create a blank (pp. 155–56)

    Dispense with the reading of the minutes (pp. 45)

    Division of the Assembly, or ordering a rising vote

    Division of a Question (27)

    Extend time for consideration of pending question until scheduled adjournment or recess (20, 21)

    Parliamentary Inquiry (pp. 281–82)

    Point of Information (pp. 282–83)

    Point of Order (23)

    Proceed to the orders of the day (18)

    Raise a Question of Privilege (19)

    Recess (20)

    Reconsider (37)

    Suspend the Rules (25)

    Take from the Table (34)

    Take up a question out of its proper order (14, 25, 41)

- A negative vote cannot be reconsidered (although an affirmative vote can be):

    Postpone Indefinitely (11)

Two-Thirds Vote

A *two-thirds vote*—when the term is unqualified—means at least two thirds of the votes cast by persons legally entitled to vote, excluding blanks or abstentions, at a regular or properly called meeting at which a quorum is present. For example, at such a meeting (assuming that there are no fractions of votes):

- If 30 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 20.
- If 31 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 21.
- If 32 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22.
- If 33 votes are cast, a two-thirds vote is 22.

As a compromise between the rights of the individual and the rights of the assembly, the principle has been established that a two-thirds vote is required to adopt any motion that: (a) suspends or modifies a rule of order previously adopted; (b) prevents the introduction of a question for consideration; (c) closes, limits, or extends the limits of debate; (d) closes nominations or the polls, or otherwise limits the freedom of nominating or voting; or (e) takes away membership or office. (For a list of motions that require a two-thirds vote, see tinted p. 46.)

In determining whether a question has obtained two thirds of the votes cast, the chair should take a rising vote (or, in a very small assembly, if he prefers and no one objects, a vote by show of hands), and he should obtain a count of the vote whenever he is in doubt concerning the result.

The chair can obtain a count of the vote initially if it appears—when those in the affirmative rise—that the result will be close; or he can retake it as a counted rising vote if he is afterward in doubt. In an assembly that has no special rule permitting a small fraction (that is, a specified

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